

**Saint Thomas More
Catholic School Council - Meeting Minutes**

2024-2025

Meeting Information			
Date/Time:	November 21, 2024	Location:	STM
Meeting Start Time:	6:30pm	Meeting End Time:	8:00pm
Agenda amended:		Minutes amended:	
Meeting Participants			
Chair(s):	Rebecca D’Souza		
Attendees:	Laura Moran, Karen Noronha, Teresa Bielecka, Stephen Defrenza, Xinmei Wang, Eric Vieira, Angela Bosargi, Alexis Guiang, Marisa Pecoraro, Carol Zouein, Ana de Melo, Raquel Martins, Jennifer Ruccella-Martinovic, Violet Castiello, Jennifer Delivuk, Online: Annette Torchia, Natalya Manzarenko		
Regrets:			
Notes Taken By:	Taken and distributed by Carol Zouein		
Meeting Minutes			
Item No.	Discussion Points / Issues Raised / Decisions Made		Action Items
	Opening Prayer read by Ms. Moran		
	Land Acknowledgement Ms Moran		
	Approval of Minutes (October 3, 2024)		Rebecca and Carol
	Approval of agenda		Marissa and Raquel

	Treasurer's Report- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Current Balance \$219191.49 includes paid forward pizza ➤ Ledger shared and explained by Carol 	
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	<p>Other Business/upcoming events:</p> <p>Ms. Noce will be back on Dec 2nd</p> <p>Terra Cotta cookie sales are moving slowly. 3 reminders sent already. Posters printed and hung in school. Teachers will post on google classroom. Another reminder email to be sent.</p> <p>Voice of concern raised around excessive TV watching during lunch time mainly for FDKs and primaries. Questioning the reason behind that, who is responsible for this, and a call for possible other interactive activities for students to use during indoor lunches. (Raised by Stephen Defrenza and Xinmei Wang)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ms. Moran explains that it is not a lack of lunch monitors or supervision, but rather up to the classroom teacher's discretion based on the weather, and it's best to talk to the teacher about that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A discussion about having 2 outdoor recesses rather than one outdoor recess came up by Natalya. Anette supported the idea. This subject will be brought up with Ms Noce. There is no board recess mandate for a certain limit of outdoor recesses. DPA- Daily Physical Activity should be 20 min. The only issue with multiple outdoor recesses is managing the time to avoid overlapping or division's recesses for injuries and accidents avoidance. □ Rebecca addresses an issue about a tree in front of the FDK yard that stinks. It smells and makes fruit that causes this ugly odor. The office will check with Mr. Allen if the fruits can be Shaken off and picked and thrown to avoid the ugly smell. Also, the office will check with the board to find a solution. □ Reminder to look for vendors for the Easter lilies and tulips fundraiser. Violet has a source that she will check. □ No update yet on grad trip. To check with Ms. Noce □ Grades 1-3 can play soccer in the field but not on the pavements. Jennifer had a safety concern issue raised. Ms. Lauren explained that soccer is only allowed on the field and American football is not allowed at all at STM. 	
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	<p>Principals Report-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monday incident. No injuries, no updates from police. No threatening situation, just called the police for double safety and security. It turned out to be a mental health issue, check done on the women by the police. ➤ Survey regarding school uniforms done earlier this year, no updates or results from board yet. ➤ Current number of student population is 569 students ➤ St Patrick's Advent mass is on Dec 3rd 9:30 am ➤ Student academic level assessment conducted by teachers as per board's request this month, letters sent out to parents related to academic level screening, child level in reading etc. ➤ Lots of activities happening at STM. Makerspace/Choir/Eco club/Crochet club/ Intermediate volleyball ➤ Continuous parking issues. No parking in kiss and ride. A blocking incident happened again yesterday. ➤ Christmas festivities at STM (Dec 17, 2024) <p>FDK Christmas concert at large gym in the morning Singalong with primary kids Intermediates and juniors' classroom advent activity and Santa will go around giving out candy canes. Picture with Santa, hot chocolate served in the large gym. No cost for participation, only a nonperishable item donation for the food bank Encouraging gift card donations initiative run by the office. Possibility to allocate part of the Terra Cotta income funds for the advent event and classroom decoration funds. (Suggested by Jennifer)</p> <p>All classrooms get hot chocolate donated and served by the council.</p>	Delivered by Ms. Moran
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	<p>Trustee's report- (Mario Pascucci at 7:13 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Concerns over decrease of number of elementary students in Ward 1 & 3. Decrease of 864 students compared to last year. ➤ Ministry will not give permission to close schools ➤ Encouraging parents to participate in the April 24th meeting with the board to share questions and concerns. 	Delivered by Mario
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parents address Mario with a request to check with Halton Catholic District School board how they were able to pass a motion to impose uniforms at elementary schools, especially that it seems to work well. Angela volunteers to collect information and email Mario with details. ➤ Questions about the board's decision regarding uniforms. No update yet; the board will discuss this in an upcoming meeting, a decision must be made and announced before June 2025. (Raised by Jennifer) 	
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	Parish News- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Christmas Gift tree ➤ Choir celebration on Nov 30, 2024, at 5pm ➤ Edge program from grade 6-8 running on Friday nights followed by 7pm mass ➤ Knights of Columbus having some advent activities 	Delivered by Alexis
	OAPCE – Info shared in email as attachment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Parents are encouraged to share and subscribe to the newsletter ➤ Eric mentioned inviting the director of the OAPCE- Diane- to one of our council meetings. 	Delivered by Eric
Next meeting	Jan 9 2025	